COMPLAINT - 1

Document 1

Filed 08/15/2008

Page 1 of 19

Case 5:08-cv-03917-HRL

- 2. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Mr. Vogtman suffered physical and emotional injury, and substantial emotional distress in the form of severe depression, anxiety, inability to eat, digestive problems and diarrhea, vomiting, dizziness, fainting spells, crying spells, difficulty sleeping, feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, lack of concentration, upset, fear, worry, stress, amongst other injury.
- 3. This is an action for damages brought by consumers for Defendants' violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA") and California's Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Civil Code § 1788 et seq. (hereinafter, "state Act"), which prohibit debt collectors from engaging in abusive, deceptive and unfair practices. Plaintiff also seeks treble damages under Civil Code §3345, which provides for a trebling of damages for deceptive and unfair acts involving disabled persons. Plaintiff was a disabled and unemployed person, at all times relevant herein, subjected to Defendants' abusive, deceptive and unlawful collection practices.
 - 4. According to 15 U.S.C. 1692:
- (a) There is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors. Abusive debt collection practices contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy.
- (b) Existing laws and procedures for redressing these injuries are inadequate to protect consumers.
- (c) Means other than misrepresentation or other abusive debt collection practices are available for the effective collection of debts.
- (d) Abusive debt collection practices are carried on to a substantial extent in interstate commerce and through means and instrumentalities of such commerce. Even where abusive debt collection practices are purely intrastate in character, they nevertheless directly affect interstate commerce.
- (e) It is the purpose of this title to eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that those debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses.

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II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. Jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), 28 U.S.C. § 1337, and supplemental jurisdiction exists for the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202. Venue in this District is proper in that Defendants transact business here and the conduct complained of occurred here.

III. PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff THOMAS VOGTMAN (hereinafter "Mr. Vogtman") was a disabled and unemployed person residing in Santa Cruz, CA, at all times relevant herein.
- 7. Mr. Vogtman is a "consumer" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3) and a "debtor" as defined by Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2.
- 8. Defendant J&L Collection Services, Inc., dba J&L TEAMWORKS (hereinafter "J&L or Defendant or Defendants"), is a California corporation that regularly attempts to collect debts owed another with its principal place of business located at 651 N. Cherokee Lane, #B2, Lodi, CA 95240.
- 9. J&L is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and California Civil Code § 1788.2.
- 10. Defendant Tony Mirabal (hereinafter "Mr. Mirabal") is an employee of J&L who regularly attempts to collect debts owed another.
- 11. Mr. Mirabal is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(6) and California Civil Code § 1788.2.
- 12. Defendant Wesley Doe (hereinafter "Wesley") is an employee of J&L who regularly attempts to collect debts owed another.
- 13. Wesley Doe is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(6) and California Civil Code § 1788.2.
- 14. Plaintiff alleges that at all times herein mentioned, each Defendant was, and is now, the agent, servant, employee and/or other representative of the other Defendants, and in doing

the things herein alleged, was acting in the scope, purpose and authority of such agency, service employment, and/or representative capacity with the permission, knowledge, consent and ratification of the other Defendants. Defendants authorized, approved and/or ratified the wrongful acts herein. Defendants authorized, approved, and/or ratified the wrongful acts herein. Any reference to "DEFENDANTS" "Defendant" or "Defendants" without further qualification is meant by Plaintiffs to refer to each Defendant, and all of them, named herein.

IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Plaintiff Thomas Vogtman (hereinafter "Mr. Vogtman") incurred a financial obligation to Santa Cruz Medical Foundation. The debt was primarily incurred for personal, family or household purposes and is therefore a "debt" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and "consumer debt" as that term is defined by Cal. Civil Code § 1788.2(f).
- 16. Mr. Vogtman is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that sometime thereafter on a date unknown to Mr. Vogtman, the debt was sold, assigned or otherwise transferred to J&L to collect the debt from Mr. Vogtman.
- 17. On or about the summer of 2007 Defendants began calling Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the debt. In each call, Plaintiff informed Defendant he was a disabled veteran, unemployed and unable to pay.
- 18. On or about August 16, 2007, J&L sent a collection letter to Mr. Vogtman in an attempt to collect a debt or collect payment on a debt. A true and correct copy of the August 16, 2007 collection letter is attached to the herein complaint as **Exhibit 1**.
- 19. <u>Exhibit 1</u> contained false, deceptive, and misleading statements in an effort to collect a debt or collect payment on a debt.
- 20. Exhibit 1 falsely threatened imminent action not intended and not taken within the time frame taken, including credit reporting by Defendant.
 - 21. Exhibit 1 created a false sense of urgency.

- 22. At the time of receiving **Exhibit 1**, Mr. Vogtman was disabled, unemployed and receiving Workers Compensation disability benefits.
- 23. On or about September 2007, Defendants telephoned Plaintiff demanding immediate payment. Plaintiff informed Defendant he was disabled, unemployed, unable to pay, he was being represented by an attorney, to contact his attorney, and gave Defendants the name, and telephone number of his attorney. Defendant falsely threatened an imminent lawsuit. Defendants made false, deceptive and misleading statements in an attempt to collect a debt. Defendants created a false sense of urgency. Plaintiff terminated the call. Nevertheless, Defendants continued to telephone Plaintiff.

FIRST CEASE AND DESIST LETTER

- 24. On or about September 13, 2007, Mr. Vogtman's attorney sent J&L a letter via certified mail, informing J&L that Mr. Vogtman was represented by legal counsel, provided such legal counsel's name and phone number, and requested any further contact be made through Mr. Vogtman's legal counsel. The letter also informed J&L that Mr. Vogtman is disabled, receiving Workers Compensation disability benefits, and that any further contact to Mr. Vogtman will cause Mr. Vogtman to suffer unnecessary stress. **Exhibit 2**.
- 25. Despite the cease and desist order, Defendants made dozens of calls to Plaintiff over the course of the next several months, several times calling more than once a day, and in a repeated fashion.
 - 26. Defendants failed to provided notices as required by federal law.
- 27. Defendants failed to meaningfully identify themselves, and engaged a device in an attempt to conceal their repeated phone calls.
- 28. Despite the cease and desist order, Defendants sent numerous letters directly the Plaintiff over the next several months.

SECOND CEASE AND DESIST LETTER

29. On or about February 6, 2008, Mr. Vogtman's attorney sent J&L another letter via certified mail, informing J&L that Mr. Vogtman was represented by legal counsel, provided such

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legal counsel's name and phone number, and requested any further contact be made through Mr. Vogtman's legal counsel. **Exhibit 3**. The letter also informed J&L that Mr. Vogtman is disabled, receiving Workers Compensation disability benefits, and that any further contact to Mr. Vogtman will cause Mr. Vogtman to suffer unnecessary stress. Nevertheless, Defendants relentless phone calls directly to Plaintiff continued.

THIRD CEASE AND DESIST LETTER

- 30. On or about May 2, 2008, Mr. Vogtman sent a letter to the creditor, Santa Cruz Medical Foundation, again indicating Plaintiff was a disabled veteran, and requesting Defendants cease and desist all communications to him and to inform their collector, J&L to also cease all communications to him as well. Nevertheless, Defendants continued to call Plaintiff.
 - 31. Plaintiff is disabled as that term is defined by Civil Code §1761.
 - 32. Defendants were informed by Plaintiff, and were aware Mr. Vogtman was disabled.
- 33. Mr. Vogtman is substantially more vulnerable than other members of the public to J&L's conduct because of his disability.
- 34. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Mr. Vogtman suffered physical and emotional injury, and substantial emotional distress in the form of severe depression, anxiety, inability to eat, digestive problems and diarrhea, vomiting, dizziness, fainting spells, crying spells, difficulty sleeping, feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, lack of concentration, upset, fear, worry, stress, amongst other injury.

V. <u>FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF</u> (Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 *et seq.*)

- 35. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each paragraph alleged above.
- 36. The foregoing acts and omission of Defendants constitute violations of the FDCPA, including but not limited to: 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692c, 1692d, 1692e, 1692e(5), 1692e(10), e(11), and 1692f, as evidenced by the following conduct:
- 37. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692c by contacting someone known to be represented by counsel.

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- 38. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692c by failing to abide by a cease and desist order.
- 39. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692d by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass oppress or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 40. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(5) by falsely threatening imminent action not intended and did not take within the time frame threatened including credit reporting.
- 41. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(10) using false, deceptive, and misleading statements in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 42. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(11) by failing to provide notices required by federal law.
- 43. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692e and 1692e(10) by creating a false sense of urgency.
- 44. Defendants violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f by using unfair or unconscionable means to collect the debt
- 45. As a result of the above violations of the FDCPA, Defendants are liable to Mr. Vogtman for statutory damages, costs and attorney's fees.

VI. <u>SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF</u> (California Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Civil Code § 1788 et seq.)

- 46. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs above as though fully stated herein.
- 47. Defendants violated Civil Code §1788 et seq., including but not limited to Civil Code §1788.11, §1788.13, §1788.17.
 - 48. Defendants are debt collectors pursuant to Civil Code §1788.2.
- 49. The Defendants were attempting to collect a consumer debt as defined by Civil Code §1788.2.

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- 50. Defendants violated Civil Code 1788.13(j) by falsely threatening imminent suit and Civil Code §1788.13(f) by falsely threatening imminent credit reporting.
- 51. Defendants violated Civil Code §1788.17 by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to annoy, harass, oppress and abuse.
- 52. Defendants violated civil code §1788.17 be engaging in an unfair and unconscionable act in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 53. Defendants violated Civil Code §1788.17 by refusing to cease and desist, and unlawfully communicating with someone known to be represented by counsel.
- 54. Defendants violated Civil Code §1788.17 by making false, deceptive and misleading statements in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 55. Plaintiff is entitled to recover statutory damages, actual damages, reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

VII. INVASION OF PRIVACY

- 56. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs above as though fully stated herein.
- 57. Defendants' outrageous, abusive, and malicious acts constituted intrusion upon Plaintiff's seclusion.
- 58. Defendants intruded upon the solitude or seclusion, private affairs or concerns of Plaintiff.
- 59. The intrusion was substantial, and of a kind that would be highly offensive to an ordinarily reasonable person.
- 60. The intrusion caused Plaintiff to sustain injury, damage, loss or harm in the form of emotional distress and actual injury as further described herein.
- 61. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

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62. Defendants acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages in an amount according to proof and a finder of fact at trial.

VIII. TORT-IN-SE

- 63. Plaintiff repeats, re-allege, and incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs above as though fully stated herein.
- 64. Defendants violated a statutory duty to another and are thus liable under the doctrine of "Tort-in-se."
- 65. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq., Civil Code §1788 et seq., as noted above and are thus liable for tort-in-se.
- 66. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 67. Defendants acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

IX. NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 68. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs above as more fully stated herein.
- 69. Defendants' outrageous, abusive and intrusive acts as described herein constituted negligent infliction of emotional distress.
- 70. Defendants' conduct as described herein was wrongful conduct in that the Defendants conducted their business in an abusive, oppressive, and harassing manner.
- 71. It is clearly foreseeable that Defendants' actions as described herein could cause severe and serious emotional distress.
- 72. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 73. Defendants acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

X. <u>NEGLIGENCE</u>

- 74. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs above as though fully stated herein.
- 75. Defendants' actions and omissions as described herein constitute negligence in that Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care in the collection of the alleged debt and in investigating and addressing Plaintiff's claims for redress, said duties were breached, and said breach was the proximate cause of damages suffered by Plaintiff.
- 76. Plaintiff suffered damages due to Defendants' actions in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 77. Plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages for the actions and omissions of the Defendants as described herein.
- 78. Defendants acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice, thereby entitling Plaintiff to punitive damages in an amount according to proof and a finder of fact at trial.

XI. <u>NEGLIGENT HIRING, RETENTION, TRAINING, AND</u> SUPERVISION

- 79. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference all of the paragraphs above as though fully stated herein.
- 80. Defendant was negligent in the hiring, retention, training, and/or supervision of its employees. Defendant's actions and omissions constitute negligence in that Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty to hire, retain, train, and/or supervise its employees properly, said duty was breached, and said breach was the proximate cause of damages suffered by Plaintiff.
- 81. The actions and omissions of Defendant as described herein constitute grossly negligent hiring, retention, training, and/or supervision in that Defendant owed Plaintiff a duty to hire, retain, train, and/or supervise its employees properly, said duty was breached, said breach was the proximate cause of damages suffered by Plaintiff, and Defendant's actions and omissions

1	demonstrate a want of scant care and an indifference to the rights of Plaintiff. The actions of							
2	Defendant were willful, malicious, and wanton. The actions of Defendant were highly							
3	unreasonable and demonstrate an extreme departure from ordinary care.							
4	82. Plaintiff suffered damages due to Defendant's actions in an amount to be determined							
5	by proof by the finder of fact at trial.							
6	83. Defendant acted with fraud, oppression, and/or malice, thereby entitling Plaintiff to							
7	punitive damages in an amount according to proof and a finder of fact at trial.							
8	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully pray that judgment be entered against the							
9	Defendants for the following:							
10	A. Judgment that Defendants' conduct violated the FDCPA and the state Act.							
11	B. Statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k, Civil Code § 1788.17 and Civil							
12	Code § 1788.30.							
13	C. Treble damages pursuant to Civil Code § 3345.							
14	D. Actual and punitive damages.							
15	E. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k and Civil Code §							
16	1788.17 and Civil Code § 1788.30.							
17	F. Grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper.							
18	Angl/11113 8/15/08							
19	Ronald Wilcox Attorney for Plaintiff							
20	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL							
21	Please take notice that Plaintiff demand trial by jury in this action.							
22								
23	Ronald Wilson Boto							
24	Ronald Wilcox Date Attorney for Plaintiff							

Exhibit 1

651 N. Cherokee Lane, #B2	Document 1 Fil	ed 08/15/2008 Page	13 of 19 KS
Address Service Requested		651 N. Cherokee La Lodi Ca 95240 800-481-6006	
August 16, 2007	·	300-431-0000	
		ACCOUNT IDENTIFIC	CATION
PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL		RE: Santa Cruz Medica	l Foundation
Thomas H Vogtman 997190		ACCOUNT NUMBER	: 9156162
1630 Merrill St Apt 306 Santa Cruz, CA 95062-4012		PATIENT NAME	: Vogtman, Thomas H
Bdodbilloshoshddlissodishlabadladd	I	PRINCIPAL INTEREST	: \$445.20 : \$15.61
		BALANCE OWING	: \$460.81
	IMPORTANT N	OTICE	
NOT	TIFICATION TO CR	EDIT BUREAU	
		J&L Teamworks	
This is an attempt to collect a debt by a	debt collector. Any in	nformation obtained will be	used for that purpose.
De	etach and Return with	Payment	
		spaces provided below:	
From: Thomas H Vogtman	997190	If you wish to pay by cre- requested information in	
Change of Address:		•	Visa
City, State, Zip:			MasterCard
Telephone:			American Express
		Expiration Date:	
		-	ge will be added on all cred
J&L TEAMWORKS 651 N Cherokee Ln Ste B2 Lodi, CA 95240-4267		Signature:	

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Exhibit 2

LAW OFFICE OF BALAM O. LETONA

1347 Pacific Avenue, Suite 203 Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3940 Voice & Facsimile (831) 621-9659 letonalaw@gmail.com

September 13, 2007

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

J&L Teamworks 651 N. Cherokee Lane, B2 Lodi, CA 95240

> Re: THOMAS VOGTMAN Account No. 9156162

To Whom It May Concern:

This office represents Mr. Thomas Vogtman with respect to the debt your office seeks to collect. Mr. Vogtman regrets the fact that he will not be able to make any further payments on this debt. Please be informed that Mr. Vogtman is disabled and he receives Workers Compensation disability benefits.

This office requests pursuant to California Civil Code § 1788.14 that all further communications regarding the debt be directed to Balám O. Letona, Esq., of the Law Office of Balám O. Letona, Inc., at the address listed above. Any additional contact from your office will cause Mr. Vogtman to suffer unnecessary stress.

We thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. Additionally, if your office would like to call regarding this debt please call this office at (831)421-0200. I am

Very truly yours.

The Law Office of Balám O. Letona, Inc.

Balám O. Letona Esq.

Attorney for Thomas Vogtman

U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail Receipt

ARTICLE NUMBER

7155 5474 4100 4895 1398

ARTICLE ADDRESS TO:
J&L Teamworks
651 N Cherokee Ln Ste B2
Lodi CA 95240-4267

FEES

Postage per piece \$0.41
Certified Fee 2.65
Return Receipt Fee 2.15
Total Postage & Fees: \$5.21

Postmark Here

LOBL 1347 Pacific Avenue, Ste. 203 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
A. Signature: - Addressee or Agent) X
B. Received By: (Please Print Class) PRINTO
C. Bate of Selivery
D. Addresseo's Address (if Different From Address Used by Sondar.)
Secondary Address / Suite / Apt. / Floor (Please Print Clearly)
Delivery Address
City State ZIP + 4 Code

CERTIFIED MAIL



7155 5474 4100 4895 1198

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Article Addressed To:

Maladahaddadahadalladadallad

J&L Teamworks 651 N Cherokee Ln Ste B2 Lodi CA 95240-4267

Exhibit 3

LAW OFFICE OF BALAM O. LETONA

1347 Pacific Avenue, Suite 203 Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3940 Voice & Facsimile (831) 621-9659 letonalaw@gmail.com

February 6, 2008

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

J&L Teamworks 651 N. Cherokee Lane, B2 Lodi, CA 95240

> Re: THOMAS VOGTMAN Account No. 9156162

To Whom It May Concern:

This office represents Mr. Thomas Vogtman with respect to the account listed above and any other debt your office seeks to collect from him. Mr. Vogtman regrets the fact that he will not be able to make any further payments on this debt. Please be informed that Mr. Vogtman is disabled and he receives Workers Compensation disability benefits.

This office requests pursuant to California Civil Code § 1788.14 that all further communications regarding the debt be directed to Balám O. Letona, Esq., of the Law Office of Balám O. Letona, Inc., at the address listed above. Contact from your office has caused Mr. Vogtman to suffer unnecessary stress.

We thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. Additionally, if your office would like to call regarding this debt please call this office at (831) 421-0200. I am

Very truly yours,

The Law Office of Balám O. Letona, Inc.

Balam O. Letona, Esq.

Attorney for Thomas Vogtman

U.S. Postal Service Certified Mail Receip

ARTICLE NUMBER 7155 5974 4100 4409 6141

ARTICLE ADDRESS TO:
J&L Teamworks
651 N Cherokee Ln Ste B2
Lodi CA 95240-4267

FEES

Postage per piece Certified Fee Return Receipt Fee Total Postage & Fees:

\$0.41 2.65 2.15 **\$5.21**

Postmark Here

LAW OFFICE OF EALAM O. LETONA 1347 Pacific Avenue, Ste. 203
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

	CTION ON DELIVERY					
A. Signature: (Address	ee or 🗖 Agent)					
X Mary A	1016NEZ					
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Delivery Address						
	State ZIP + 4 Code					
City	C1010 21, 1 7 0000					

CERTIFIED MAIL



7355 5474 4300 4809 6343 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Article Addressed To:

Haladaladalladalladaladaladaladaladallad

J&L Teamworks 651 N Cherokee Ln Ste B2 Lodi CA 95240-4267 JS 44 (Rev. 12/07) (cand rev 1-16-08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating

the civil docket sheet. (SEE INST	RUCTIONS ON PAGE TV	VO OF THE FORM	I,)							
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS									
THOMAS VOGTMAN	J&L COLLECTION SERVICES, INC., dba J&L TEAMWORKS, TONY MIRABAL, WESLEY DOE and DOES 1-10									
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff SANTA CRUZ (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF (1965)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant SAN JOAQUIN (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Attorneys (If Kr	Attorneys (If Known)					
Ronald Wilcox, Attorney a 2160 The Alameda, First F San Jose, CA 95126 Tel: (408) 296-0400		nA.	(C 0 8		03	91'	7	HF	٦L
II. BASIS OF JURISDIC	CTION (Place an "X" in Di	ne Box Only)	ш. с	TIZENSHIP (For Diversity Ca	OF PR	INCIPAL P	ARTIES (P	lace an "X"	in One Box x for Defend	
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2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship o	Ci		itizen of Another State 2			orated <i>and</i> Princ Business In And	-		
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only	/)				,				
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(Excl. Veterans)	345 Marine Product	370 Other Fraud	l	690 Other					elective Servi courities/Com	
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190 Other Contract	Product Liability	385 Property Da		Act		862 Black L			2 USC 3410	
195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal Injury	Product Lia		720 Labor/Mgmt			DIWW (405(g))		ther Statutory gricultural A	
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	15 U.S.C. 1692 et		•		•		•	•		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of o									
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VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS		HUN	DEMAND \$			CHECK YES	-		-
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P.		2.10.55	NORDANIA PAG	ATTITION 2 TO	END DO THE	JURY DEM	AND:	Yes L	□ NO
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY		R TO CIVIL L.R. ELATED CASE"		ONCERNING REC	ZUIKEM	ENT TO FILE				
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGN (PLACE AND "X" IN ONE	MENT (CIVIL L.R. 3- E BOX ONLY)		⊐ SAN	FRANCISCO/O	AKLAN	D ES	AN JOSE			
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/07)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.

Example:

U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553

Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

II. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.